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The Fight on Roberts.

In a speech at Union City Monday, Col. A. T. Taylor, Republican candidate for governor, devoted the principal part of his address to a criticism of the assessment law and advocating the election of a legislature pledged to wipe the law off the statute books.

Col. Taylor's speech was sound Republican doctrine. The Republican platform adopted in Chattanooga declared in favor of the repeal of the assessment law and a return to old conditions, when the biggest property owners paid the smallest part of the taxes; the time when the county assessors catered to those whose influence they needed or feared, and left the small property owners to carry the burden of taxation.

An effort is being made in Memphis to arouse opposition to Gov. Roberts because of the increased assessment of city property. The state equalization board sent able representatives to Memphis, who equalized the assessed valuation of property with the assistance of experts among Memphis real estate agents.

As a result, Shelby county will pay to the state of Tennessee an increase of about \$46,000 over the amount of taxes collected in 1919. Those directly affected are owners of property that have never paid their proportionate part of the taxes in the past.

Most of these are accepting the figures of the state equalization board without complaint. There are a few who are making a howl, as they always do when it is suggested that they should assume their share of an obligation.

An increase of \$46,000 in state taxes is a small amount compared with the increase in revenue that the property that has been raised will yield.

Main street rents have been doubled and trebled during the past year, and it is no more than right that the owners should pay more taxes to the state for the maintenance of schools, good roads and public institutions.

There are just two explanations for the assault that is being made on Gov. Roberts for the assessment law that was passed by the legislature in accordance with the platform of the Democratic party.

One is the increase in the assessed valuation of the property owned by a few wealthy men and women who never paid anything like their just proportion of taxes.

The other is the increase in taxes of corporations that never fail to have a special pleader appear for them.

The public will not be very greatly incensed over the information that the total railroad and utility assessments have been increased \$31,363.22.

The public will not be disturbed over the information that the Memphis street railway assessment has been raised to \$11,445,000 as against an assessment of \$1,232,000 last year.

The street railway company secured an increase in fare upon the claim that it should be entitled to pay a dividend upon an investment of \$12,000,000.

If the street railway company is to collect two cents additional from every passenger it carries in order to pay a dividend on an alleged investment of \$12,000,000, there is no good reason why it should not be assessed and pay taxes on that amount.

The Memphis Gas and Electric company is in the same situation. It has gotten by on an assessment of about \$4,000,000 in the past, but it insists that it should be permitted to earn a dividend on more than \$10,000,000.

If the consumers of gas and electricity are obliged to pay an increased rate, a dividend on that amount, why should not the gas and electric company pay taxes to the state on that amount?

The same situation exists with reference to every public utility corporation in Tennessee. They never have paid anything like their just proportion of the taxes, and naturally they do not want to pay it now.

As we have repeatedly stated, and as is shown by the figures from the office of the state board of equalization, only those whose property has been assessed at less than one-third of its actual value will pay an increase in state taxes this year.

Property that has been assessed at as much as one-third of its actual cash value will pay approximately the same.

Property that has been assessed at more than one-third of its actual cash value will pay less taxes to the state than it paid in the past.

All this howl about the inequalities of the tax law is a camouflage to conceal the real purpose, which is to defend and protect the big individual property owners and the corporate interests of Tennessee.

Men and Movies.

Perhaps no amusement or industry has had more bitter critics or stancher friends than the photoplay. The fifth industry in its phenomenal growth has aroused more rancor and enthusiasm than any other in the list of modern amusements—arts—combined. Walter Pritchard Eaton in the North American Review can see nothing but gloom and death to inspiration on the stage from the colossal growth of the movies. Jesse L. Lasky, movie magnate, retorts that with a truly barbarian thrust that "the screen can borrow very little from the stage," for the reason that "although we hear a great deal about the high ideals of our drama, as a whole its standards are too low for the motion picture to accept." After which he added the reply the Frenchman Mr. Lasky when the violin from his fountain pen, snuffs his desk with a bang and goes home.

"What will become of high dramatic standards?" asks Eaton, pausing to wipe his weeping eyes, and reaching for another shot despite the scarcity of paper, he points out that a movie company financed the production of Eugene O'Neill's somber naturalistic tragedy, "Beyond the Horizon," and Arnold Bennett's "Sacred and Profane Love." "What will be the effect?" he asks, and shudders at his own question.

"Any thoughtful person who has attended half a dozen ordinary motion picture programs knows the fatal restrictions of the medium, the complete absence of everything which makes the spoken drama, at its best, so noble a thing. When once our theaters begin to produce dramas, not with an eye single to dramatic effectiveness, but rather to future screen popularity, the serious dramatist, the ambitious actor, the artist in stagecraft, will be out of a job."

This sober stuff Mr. G. K. Chesterton, the English critic, does not hesitate to characterize as "the careless cant of idealism."

It is urged that movies feature murders. Well, what of it? Take murders out of Hamlet, Macbeth or Julius Caesar and what would remain? The liad reeks with blood from the opening page to the close, as does the Aeneid, yet we hear no wild-eyed clamor to have them removed from library shelves.

The Bible begins with a murder and closes with a world tragedy, yet the Bible still continues to be read. "Movies exploit marital infidelity," wail the self-constituted Jeremiahs of the movies. Gullies! So does Ibsen in "A Doll's House," Tolstoy in "Anna Karoline," Galsworthy in "Justice," and a host of other great literary lights have found inspiration in the same theme. The truth is that you cannot find anything in the movies that has not been in the "high-brow stuff" as our friends and movie patron George Ade would specify.

There are certain emotions in human nature that appeal strongly to mankind; these will be used for all time by both photoplays and "literary gents," and that the movies can outshine rise to the occasion is shown by the miracles of "The Miracle Man," "The Heart of the World" and "Broken Blossoms."

Not Regular.

The county court should reject the bill submitted by an element of the Republican in Shelby county incident to the conduct of a primary election in August. The committee acted without any authority, and the votes cast in the primary were thrown out by the state committee.

Less than 300 votes were polled and a bill for more than \$700 was rendered for expenses.

If the county court were liable for the expenses of the primary, there are numerous items in the bill that it has no legal right to pay. The element that conducted the primary has no standing in the state organization. The leaders of the party in Shelby county took no part in the primary, and the voters were urged to remain away from the polls.

It is very clear to us that the taxpayers have no obligation to defray the expenses of a snap-box primary that bore no indication of regularity.

THE SCHOOL CHILD'S HEALTH

This is one of the most vital questions that the mother faces in all the course of her life. If her child is not healthy it can not succeed in its pursuit of an education—can not grow into normal maturity.

Over Washington information has been received that the American Red Cross to make for its distribution, a bulletin that would give the mother the best possible advice about keeping her child properly fit.

"The book is now ready. It is undoubtedly the most practical study ever made of the subject. It is for the interest of the well-being of your children, send for it."

(In filling out the coupon print name and address or be sure to write plainly)

Frederic J. Haskin, Director, The Memphis News Scimitar, Information Bureau, Washington, D. C.

I have herewith two cents in stamps for return postage on a free copy of the book, "The School Child's Health."

Name.....

Street.....

City.....

State.....

A confirmed bachelor is one who has come to the unalterable conclusion that a girl "is just a piece of meat, but a little bit sweet."

The flame of love never dies out in a man's heart; it merely turns like a searchlight on one object after another, dearie.

If there ever were any germs in the modern debutante's kiss, they must all have died of "painter's colic" long ago.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q—How should imperial clubs be scored?—A. M.
A—Rules for auction bridge do not take this suit into account. It is a variation of the game that is not sanctioned by authorities, and from the standpoint of the game, such innovations are discouraged, since it makes it difficult to formulate rules that can be followed generally.

Q—Where do gnats or midges come from that are seen on fruit after it is picked, even when the fruit is in a protected place?—A. C.
A—The larvae of the fungus gnats feed on the fruit and the gnats live in such vegetable matter.

Q—Do trust companies issue money?—A. M. C.
A—Trust companies are not permitted to issue bills to circulate money.

Q—What do the tolls collected from ships using the Panama canal amount to?—A. M. P.
A—The Panama canal commission says that during September such tolls amounted to \$1,010,164. This is the largest amount collected since the opening of the canal.

Q—What is the highest mountain in the Adirondacks?—E. H. H.
A—The highest peak in the Adirondacks is Mount Marcy, which is 5,344 feet.

Q—How long have gloves been worn?—E.
A—The glove is an ancient article of dress. Knave gloves have been found among relics of cave dwellers. They were known to the ancient Greeks, but rather as a protection to the hands in performing heavy labor. Romans used gloves of silk, calling them "manicae." Their use for many generations was confined to the nobility and clergy.

Q—That part of the empire consumed in Italy in the form of wine?—T. Q. M.
A—Of the total alcohol consumption in Italy, wine contributed 82 per cent, spirits 4.2 per cent, beer 3 per cent.

Q—What is a parlor Bolshevik?—E. C. D.
A—The term "parlor Bolshevik" is applied to a derivative or derogatory sense by conservatives to those intellectuals, broadly speaking, who sympathize with the Bolshevik regime in Russia and with the proletarian movement in America, although they do not themselves belong to the working class from which the movement derives its strength.

Q—Where was the tobacco plant first grown? Is tobacco mentioned in the Bible?—A. D. W.
A—The tobacco plant is a native of the Western Hemisphere, where the aborigines cultivated and used it from remote times. There is no reference to this plant in the Bible.

Q—Please state the number of federal officers in the United States.—J. Q.
A—The civil service commission says that on July 20, 1920, there were approximately 810,000 federal officials in the United States.

Q—How did the chinchilla get its name?—R. V. E.
A—The chinchilla derives its name from the Spanish chinch, meaning, on account of a similar odor which it gives off. The derivation of the word is founded with that of the name of the town Chinchilla.

Q—Where and when was the first Sunday school started?—Y. R. G.
A—Robert Raikes organized the first Sunday school in Plymouth, England, in 1780.

Q—Would like to know if there are monuments to Kosciuszko and Pulaski in Kansas?—A. M. P.
A—There is a monument to Kosciuszko in the northeast corner of Lafayette square, Washington, D. C., dedicated to Kosciuszko and dedicated to the memory of Kosciuszko on the Fort Clinton parade at West Point. This little statue was the property of Polish agents and hitz of the United States and was unveiled in 1912.

Q—If vessels are raised which were sunk during the war, to whom do they belong?—S. B. C.
A—The United States shipping board says that vessels which are sunk have been declared salvage, and the underwriters have settled the loss; they are to be broken up and the materials sold.

Q—Underwriters. Any contracts for the raising of these vessels must be made with the United States shipping board. They are raised without contract, settlement must be made with the underwriters.

Q—In what countries have cannibals lived?—A. M. P.
A—Cannibals have been found in historic times in both North and South America, Africa, Asia, Australia, New Zealand and the Polynesian islands.

Q—What is the meaning of "tradition"?—A. M. P.
A—"Tradition" means customs, beliefs and ideas in general which are handed down from one generation to another by spoken language without a written record.

Q—How is the horsepower of a boiler rated?—I. M. P.
A—The Bureau of standards says that one boiler H. P. is equivalent to the evaporation of 34.5 pounds of water per hour from a feed water temperature of the degree F. to steam at 70 pounds per square inch.

Q—What is the origin of the term "certified mail"?—I. M. P.
A—"Certified mail" is a term coined by the Bureau of Census and is used in establishing the first mail commission. The term was registered in the United States Patent Office to protect it from being degraded by others from producing mail under superior conditions of a modern mail system. Some states have laws limiting the use of this term to mail of certified mail.

Q—What is meant by an aspect ratio?—A. M. P.
A—The aspect ratio term referring to the ratio of the long to the short side of an airplane, aircraft or camera.

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As a Woman Thinks

BY EDITH E. MORIARTY.

(Copyright, 1920, by The Wheeler Syndicate, Inc.)
How times have changed! It seems only yesterday that I inveighed bitterly against the Bachelor flat!

In these very columns I have since I declared that "the girl who marries a widower may be number one," but the girl who marries a man who has kept a bachelor flat is number thirty-two.

That she misses half the joy and all of the ecstasy and excitement of "domesticating" him.

That he has been spoiled, petted, pampered, and fed up with little feminine attentions, until there is not a single novelty nor a brand new thrill left for him.

That, as long as a lone man lives in a boarding house, a hotel, or a club, nobody feels sorry for him.

But the moment he becomes a "bachelor apartment," all the sweet young things begin to "mother" him as "Uncle Wiggly" and "Nurse Jane."

To fight for the privilege of darning his socks, sewing on his buttons, presiding at his teas, showing him how to cook, and making life one long, tedious dream for him.

In short, that fireless cookers, electric dish washers, laundries that do your mending, and the bachelor flat are all modern enemies of love and marriage and romance.

And now, look at how things have changed! In these days, when the college professor is seeking a job as farm hand—and the farmer drives a limousine.

When the maid dictates her terms, and the mistress has to furnish "references."

And when every other bride you meet is holding a job downtown, and doing her own housework up town.

A husband who has kept house in a bachelor flat is a blessing straight from the land of the yellow and black.

He may not have many illusions— but neither has he any beautiful hallucinations, that home is going to romance.

He knows that there are such things as leeches and milkmen and butchers and profiteers, and bills—and he does not grate on his finer sensibilities.

And, oh, sweetest thought of all, he is not too proud to work!

When the cook leaves in the middle of a meal, he feels it no insult and degradation to his manhood to tie a gingham apron around his corpulent middle and help wash and dry the dishes.

When you happen to be delayed downtown by a traffic tieup, he will cheerfully and efficiently start the dinner for you.

Instead of jehing and growling around the house until you come in when they are burning.

When you are a headache, or need your beauty sleep, he doesn't mind getting up, making his own coffee, and tip-toeing quietly off to work.

And when everything goes wrong, he can tumble quite comfortably onto a couch or into an unmade bed, and sleep.

He is used to unmade beds, and an upset house, and a 24-hour "can't."

All life is one long, care-free picnic to him.

He is a domestic soldier of fortune, bless him—and the only thing on earth that makes him uncomfortable is when you "call" him.

Best of all, he is not a spoiled darling, fresh from the hands of his mother.

When you reach out of mamma's "glass case" long enough to grow up, and behave like a big boy, instead of weeping or putting when his chop is overdone or his eggs are cooked a little.

In short, he is a responsible human being, used to life's vicissitudes— blessed by the fire of the bachelor flat!

Blessed be the bachelor flat!

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The Days of Real Sport—By Briggs

Copyright, 1920, by the Tribune Association (New York Tribune).



UNCLE WIGGLY AND THE BOX TORTOISE.

BY HOWARD R. GARIS.

(Copyright, 1920, by McClure News-Paper Syndicate.)

low stump bungalow. We have plenty of room."

"Thank you," said the tortoise, and he was about to crawl on when, all of a sudden he gave a hiss like a snake, which many tortoises do, and Nurse Jane looked behind them.

"There stood the funny old Fuzzy Fox, with a smile on his face, showing his sharp teeth."

"Oh, this is a lucky day for me!" cried the fox. "I hoped I might catch a rabbit," and he looked sharply at Uncle Wiggly.

"But I did not know I was going to have a muskrat lady, too," and he smiled at Nurse Jane.

"Don't be too sure you haven't got me yet," said Miss Fuzzy Wuzzy. "Oh, but I'll soon have you!" growled the Fuzzy Fox, and Uncle Wiggly, looking toward the ground, saw that the box tortoise had drawn his head, legs and tail within his shell, shutting himself up until he looked just like a black and yellow stone.

"I'll soon have you!" growled the Fuzzy Fox. "First I'll take Uncle Wiggly, and then I'll take Nurse Jane."

"What will you do if we run away?" asked the muskrat lady.

"Oh, but I'd like to see you run away!" howled the Fuzzy Fox. "If you try it, I'll throw a stone at you and make you stand still."

He went on. "Yes, and here's a stone all ready for me to throw at you!" he said, reaching down to his pocket.

"Look out!" cried Uncle Wiggly, as he saw what the bad fox was going to pick up. "That isn't a stone, it's a box."

"Hush!" whispered Nurse Jane. "But the fox, never heeding, reached his paw closer to what he thought was a black and yellow stone on the path in the woods. The next moment the bad Fuzzy Fox began dancing around on his hind legs, rolling one fore paw up in the air and howling."

"Take it off! Take it stone off! There must be a crack in it and it's pinching me terrible! Take it stone off my paw a stone!" answered the box tortoise, sort of speaking through his nose. "That's the time you fooled yourself; I'm not a stone."

"I'm a tortoise and I have nipped your paw in my sharp beak," Mr. Fuzzy Wuzzy, I'll hold on, and bite you, until you promise to let Nurse Jane and Uncle Wiggly alone."

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